

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method of offering preferred transport in a network, the method comprising:
 - receiving a first part of a content transmission from a content provider in the network at a transmission device that transmits the content between the content provider and a destination of the content;
 - receiving an indication of predetermined transport parameters in the network at the transmission device, the indication being contained in the received first part of the content transmission;
 - setting up entries in a switching table identifying the content transmission based on the content provider and the destination, the entries in the switching table specifying the predetermined transport parameters;
 - receiving a second part of the content transmission in the network from the content provider;
 - accessing the switching table to determine the predetermined transport parameters for the content transmission; and
 - the transmission device transmitting the second part of the content transmission in the network in accordance with the transport parameters, accessed from the switching table, to the destination.
2. (Currently amended) A transmission device comprising:
 - a data receiver configured to receive a first part of a content transmission and an indication of predetermined transport parameters contained in the received first part of the content transmission in a network from a content provider, a service logic for grouping the first part of the content transmission and subsequent parts of the content transmission as a communications flow;

a transmission logic for determining the transmission parameters of the content transmission according to the indication of transport parameters;
a transport creation block for creating entries in a switching table identifying the content transmission based on the content provider and the destination, the entries in the content table specifying the predetermined transport parameters;
a maintenance component for managing and deleting entries in the switching table that are no longer needed;
a switching apparatus for transporting the first part and subsequent parts of the content transmission in the network to a communications port of a destination of the content according to the communications flow determined by the service logic by reference to the entries in the switching table; and
a data transmitter configured to transmit the subsequent parts of the content transmission in the network to the destination in conjunction with the communications port in accordance with the transmission parameters determined by the transmission logic.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first part of the content transmission is a command for a particular content transmission.
4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the command is a request command for a particular content transmission.
5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the command is an HTTP GET request command.
6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the command includes the indication of transport parameters, and wherein the indication of transport parameters includes a content tag.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the command includes information that is utilized in the return path for the content transmission.
8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising: receiving a response to the command, wherein the response includes a content tag.
9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising: authenticating a distribution allowed for the content transmission, and the transmission device authorizing only the allowed distribution of the content transmission
10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the transportation parameters include a preferred level of transport.
11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the transport parameters include at least one selected from a group consisting of a predetermined amount of bandwidth, a predetermined quality of service, a predetermined transmission attribute, a predetermined amount of packet loss, and a predetermined amount of jitter.
12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising: decrypting the indication of transport parameters.
13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein receiving a first part of the content transmission in the network includes receiving the first part of the content transmission in a node of the network along a transmission path of the content transmission.
14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the content transmission includes application data.

15. (Previously Presented) The transmission device according to claim 2, wherein the first part of the content transmission is a command for a particular content transmission.
16. (Previously Presented) The transmission device according to claim 15, wherein the command is a request command for a particular content transmission.
17. (Previously Presented) The transmission device according to claim 16, wherein the command is an HTTP GET request command.
18. (Previously Presented) The transmission device according to claim 17, wherein the command includes the indication of transport parameters, and wherein the indication of transport parameters includes a content tag.
19. (Previously Presented) The transmission device according to claim 17, wherein the command identifies a return path for the content transmission.
20. (Previously Presented) The transmission device according to claim 17, wherein the data receiver is further configured to receive a response to the command, wherein the response includes a content tag.
21. (Previously Presented) The transmission device according to claim 2, wherein the transport parameters include a preferred level of transport.
22. (Previously Presented) The transmission device according to claim 21, wherein the transport parameters include at least one selected from a group consisting of a predetermined amount of bandwidth, a predetermined quality of service, a predetermined transmission attribute, a predetermined amount of packet loss, and a predetermined amount of jitter.
23. (Previously Presented) The transmission device according to claim 2, further comprising:
a decryption element configured to decrypt the indication of transport parameters.

24. (Previously presented) The transmission device according to claim 2, further comprising:

an authentication element configured to authenticate a distribution allowed for the content transmission; and
an authorization element configured to authorize only allowed distribution of the content transmission.

25. (Currently amended) A method of offering preferred transport in a peer-to-peer network, the method comprising:

receiving a first part of a content file transmission in the peer-to-peer network from a content provider at a transmission device that transmits the content between the content provider and a destination of the content;
receiving an indication of predetermined transport parameters in the peer-to-peer network, the indication being contained in the received first part of the content file transmission at a transmission device that transmits the content between the content provider and a destination of the content;
setting up entries in a switching table identifying the content file transmission based on the content provider and the destination, the entries in the switching table specifying the predetermined transport parameters;
receiving a second part of the content file transmission in the peer-to-peer network at the transmission device;
accessing the switching table to determine the predetermined transport parameters for the content transmission; and
the transmission device transmitting the second part of the content file transmission in the peer-to-peer network in accordance with the transport parameters dictated by the switching table.

26. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the indication of predetermined transport parameters is contained in a content payload header of the content transmission.

27. (Previously presented) The transmission device according to claim 2, wherein the indication of predetermined transport parameters is contained in a content payload header of the content transmission.